

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /090 W

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R 262100Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2999

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: NATIONAL COMMEMORATES DEATH OF EVITA PERON

1. PRINCIPAL EVENTS SCHEDULED TO CELEBRATE MEMORY OF MARIA EVA DUARTE DE PERON, WHO DIED 21 YEARS AGO TODAY (JULY 26), INCLUDE MORNING MASS IN NATIONAL CATHEDRAL, AFTERNOON CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SESSION, AND EVENING CEREMONY AT HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGT). INNUMERABLE ADDITIONAL MASSES AND BUST-UNVEILING CEREMONIES ARE SCHEDULED IN BUENOS AIRES AND ACROSS THE NATION SPONSORED BY LABOR UNIONS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, UNIVERSITIES AND PARTISIAN GROUPS INCLUDING JUVENTUD PERONISTA IN COOPERATION WITH GROUP OF PRIESTS OF THIRD WORLD MOVEMENT. CENTRAL CITY WALLS AND MORNING PRESS PLASTERED WITH PICTURES OF EX-PRESIDENT'S DECEASED WIFE ANNOUNCING "EVITA LIVES ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF THE WORKERS."

2. THE CGT CEREMONY, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 8:25 PM (THE HOUR OF EVA PERON'S DEATH), IS THE CENTRAL ACT OF THE DAY'S OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI, MINISTERS AND UNDERSECRETARIES OF STATE, NATIONAL LEGISLATORS, AND NATIONAL AND LOCAL LABOR LEADERS. IF PERON ATTENDS TODAY'S SESSION, CONGRESS WILL PRESENT HIM WITH AN ARGENTINE FLAG WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO EVA PERON. IN A SEPARATE SESSION IT WILL CONSIDER SEVERAL BILLS INCLUDING ONE TO DESIGNATE JULY 26 AS "DAY OF THE WOMAN" AND ONE TO RENAME A MAJOR CITY STREET EVA

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PERON AVENUE. BOTH PERON AND LASTIRI ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL MASS.

3. COMMENT: PRIOR PUBLICITY PITCHED TO APPEAL TO QUASI-RELIGIOUS AND PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS OF WORKING MASSES. BOTH CHURCH AND SECULAR AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN APOTHEOSIS OF EVITA.

4. FROM EARLY MORNING HOURS, SUBWAYS AND STREETS NEAR PLAZA DE MAYO DENSELY PATROLLED BY SECURITY FORCES IN HEAVY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER.
KREBS

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